



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,210	03/19/2004	Douglas P. O'Connor	44933	6519
1609	7590	07/08/2005	EXAMINER	
ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P. 1300 19TH STREET, N.W. SUITE 600 WASHINGTON,, DC 20036			GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,210

Applicant(s)

O'CONNOR ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander D. Gilman

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-9,11-17,19,20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10,18 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11-17, 19-20, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunz.

With regard to claims 1, 12, 15, 20 Kunz (US 5,494,457) disclose (Fig. 1) a snagless telecommunications connector, comprising:

a connector housing (14, 30) having front and rear ends, and an upper surface extending between said front and rear ends;

a latch beam (18) extending rearwardly from said front end of said housing over and adjacent said upper surface, said latch beam being deflectable to disengage said connector from a mated connection;

first and second ears (44, 46) extending outwardly from said upper surface, each of said first and second ears having a portion tapering toward said rear end of said housing; and

a rib (20) extending outwardly from said latch beam, wherein said first and second ears (44, 46) are formed unitarily with said connector housing.

With regard to claims 2, 13, 20, Kunz discloses that said connector is an RJ-45 plug (having 8 grooves) .

With regard to claim 4, Kunz discloses that each of said first and second ears are flush with one of side walls of said connector housing.

With regard to claim 6, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears (44, 46) extend from said upper surface above said latch beam (18).

With regard to claims 7, 20, Kunz discloses that said latch beam (18) and said rib (20) extend rearwardly between said first and second ears.

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to claims 8, 16, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears extend substantially perpendicularly from said upper surface of said connector housing.

With regard to claims 9, 17, Kunz discloses that each of said first and second ears is flush with a side wall of said connector housing.

With regard to claims 11, 19, 22, Kunz discloses that said rib (20) is unitarily formed with said latch beam (18) .

With regard to claim 14, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears (44, 46) extend above said latch beam.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunz in view of Huang et al.

Kunz does not disclose that said rib extends higher than said first and second ears.

Huang et al (US D477,571) disclose (Fig. 1) that said rib (the gripped portion) extends higher than said first and second ears.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to extend higher than said first and second ears, as taught by Huang et al , to conveniently operate the rib.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10, 18, 21 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2833

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the specific configuration of the rib having the portion being tapered toward a rear end of said latch beam

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 05/09/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that the Kunz does not disclose first and second ears unitarily formed with the connector housing as recited in claim 1.

However, as it was shown in the rejection, the housing comprising the components 14 and 30 discloses first and second ears (46, 44) unitarily formed with the connector housing.

In this case, the component 30 is a part of housing (something that covers, protects, or supports – The Heritage Dictionary, 4th Ed).

Kunz discloses the modification of the housing “for protecting a tab of a plug”. The modified housing includes two engaged components 14 and 30, both functioning as protecting covering elements. Hence, the rejection deems to be correct.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

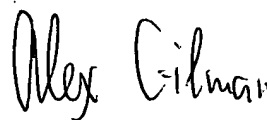
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Art Unit: 2833

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

06/27/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Gilman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER